Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:)
)
Creation of a Low Power Radio Service) MM Docket No. 99-25
)
Amendment of Service and Eligibility) MB Docket No. 07-172
Rules for FM Broadcast Translator Stations)

COMMENTS OF SISTERS OF THE ROAD, INC.

Since 1979, Sisters Of The Road has been an essential part of the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood in Portland, Oregon. Sisters offers a space to build community, empower ourselves, learn from one another, dine with dignity and organize for justice and human rights for all. Sisters Of The Road exists to build authentic relationships and alleviate the hunger of isolation in an atmosphere of nonviolence while seeking systemic solutions that reach the roots of homelessness and poverty to end them forever.

In 2000, Sisters of the Road invested a great deal of human and financial resources in preparing for the LPFM application process, and was thwarted by the channel restrictions imposed by Congress. Through our community organizing project Visions in Action, we hoped to use our LPFM station to provide a forum for homeless and low-income people in the Old Town/ Chinatown area of Portland to share their stories and empower one another.

In 2001, we helped lead a letter writing campaign to Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith to support Senate Bill 404 (the original bill introduced by Senator John McCain which over the years led to the recent Local Community Radio Act).

More than ten years later, there have been no LPFM licensing opportunities in the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood and our community still has no access to the airwaves.

We ask the FCC to dismiss translator application in the Portland market and to take all the necessary steps to create meaningful opportunities for low power radio in the city of Portland and other urban areas. After more than a decade, the issues facing our community have only become more urgent. The Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood needs its own voice on the airwaves, now more than ever.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Beemer

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